HARRISBURG, Aug. 21.

Pennsylvania Canal.—It affords us unaffected pleasure to state, that two New York companies, who took contracts on the eastern section of the Pennsylvania Canal, have come on, and are about entering upon their work. We learn that all the contractors, except one from New Jersey, are now proceeding actively in order to fulfil their engagements. The rumor, to which we gave currency in our last, of the arrest of several of these contractors in Pittsburg, we are glad to be assured had no foundation in fact.

Mr. John Shannon, a respectable citizen of Starkey, Yates county, N. Y. was killed in an awful manner, on the 10th inst. Whilst on his way to Hurd's mill, his horses, (one of which was a young and restive colt,) ran off the high precipice with the waggon near the mill. The bank down which Mr. Shannon was precipitated was from 80 to 100 feet and almost perpendicular. Mr. Shannon and the horses were found dead in the mill-pond in about ten feet water.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 18.

An inquest was held on Wednesday, in North Howard st. by John Asquith, Esq. over the body of a young man by the name of Lawrence Fanning, about nineteen years of age, whose death, as appeared, was caused by a kick in the side from a young man of about the same age, while engaged in fighting, by *mutual consent.*

Miss PATSEY MORRIS, of Louisa county, Va. lately deceased, has liberated all her slaves [about sixteen] with a request that they should be sent to Liberia. She has also left five hundred dollars to fit them out, and defray the expenses of their passage.

Nat. Int.

Great surprise has been expressed, in some of the Eastern papers, that there are, within the State of Massachusetts, as appears by the recent enumeration, more than three hundred persons, who cannot read or write. To us it rather appears a matter of surprise that there are so few, rather than that there are so many illiterate persons. We are very much afraid, that if the population of our city was polled, it would be found that in our comparatively limited population there are at least that number who can neither read nor write, notwithstanding our laudable establishment and support of Free Schools. In some of the Southern and Western States, instead of three hundred, we have no doubt there might be found ten times that number, and perhaps ten fold again, ignorant of letters, or at least of the art and mystery of writing. And it will long be the case, unless, happily, they could be persuaded to adopt the New England system, or something analogous to it, as is so strongly recommended by the venerable JEFFERSON, in that admirable Letter of his to Major Cartwright, which we lately published. The operation of that system in the Eastern States, but particularly in Connecticut, where it has attained the highest perfection, needs only to be seen to be admired. We confess, however, that we did not suppose it had diffused the knowledge of letters so universally as that the proportion of those who cannot read or write is reduced to *less than one in a thousand.* Such is the fact in Massachusetts, where in a population of nearly or quite six hundred thousand souls, there are not to be found four hundred who are not wholly untaught. We question whether the world can furnish a similar example of intelligence in the People, and in the Government by whose providence it encouraged and promoted. *Ib.*

Murder.—Last Sunday a convict in the Penitentiary named *Edmund Johnson* was stabbed to the heart by a fellow convict named *Thomas Bradley.* The latter suspected the former of having communicated to the guard a plan he had devised for making his escape. He was a blacksmith and had made the weapon himself. On Monday a grand jury was called and he was tried and found guilty yesterday.

One would think, that in late scenes, murderers would find little encouragement to prosecute their bloody designs. —But a fell, *uncompromising* spirit seems to be stalking through this Commonwealth, which nothing can check but an inflexible execution of the laws. *Kentucky Argus.*

BALTIMORE, August 23.

Melancholy Accident.—It becomes our painful duty to note an unfortunate event that occurred on Monday evening, being another evidence of the danger attendant upon an attempt to leave a carriage while furiously drawn by an unmanageable horse. Miss MATILDA BARTITT, second daughter of Dr. J. Brevitt, while on a visit to a friend in the country, was induced, last evening about 6 o'clock, to visit a camp meeting held in the neighborhood, on returning from which, the horse that drew the carry-all became frightened and dashed rapidly along—Miss Brevitt becoming alarmed, sprang from the carriage and was *instantly killed!* The young lady in company was also seriously injured in the like attempt. Thus has society been deprived of an amiable and interesting female, and her parents of an affectionate and beloved child, justly endeared to them by her virtues. The young man who drove the horse, escaped with trifling injury.

Important from Laguayra.

We learn by the schr. Alisanna, arrived here last evening, in 17 days from Laguayra, that business was completely at a stand, and nothing but the necessaries of life would sell. Gen. Paez was at Valencia with 8 or 10,000 men, and the streets of Caracas and Laguayra, were daily patroled to add to his army. Gen. Bermudez was at Cumana, with an equal army to oppose the movements of Gen. Paez. A British frigate was lying in Laguayra to protect the British merchants in case of need. *Balt. Chron.*

IMPORTANT DECISION IN N. Y.

From the Oneida Observer of Aug 15.

CASE OF DEAN.

Charles E. Dean, was lately tried and convicted in Washington county. The instrument forged was a note, and the forgery consisted in putting the name of the endorser upon it without his knowledge or consent. On the trial, the endorser whose name was forged was a witness against the prisoner. The counsel for the prisoner objected on the trial to this witness as incompetent, because he was interested to prove the note a forgery to destroy his liability to pay. The Judge (Throop) who tried the prisoner, overruled the objection, and admitted the witness' testimony, and proved the forgery. The prisoner's counsel excepted to that opinion and the prisoner was brought up at this term for the opinion of the Supreme Court, whether the person whose name is charged in the indictment to have been forged, can be a witness against the prisoner. That question was argued by Mr. Stevens, for the prisoner, and the Attorney General Tallcott, for the people. The Supreme Court decided that the witness was properly admitted, and of course that the conviction of the prisoner was legal. Chief Justice Savage, sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment in the State Prison. Dean is a young man of about 25 years of age, an Attorney at Law, and the witness whose name he forged, was his Father in-law.

GREEK PIRATES DESTROYED.

We learn by a slip from our correspondents of the New-York Gazette, that Mr. Topliff of Boston, has been favoured by Captain Williams, of the brig Sultana, with a Malta paper of the 28th of June, containing the particulars of the dislodgement of a nest of Greek pirates at the Island of Canada, by the English frigate Sybille, Captain Pechelle, in which the frigate sustained a loss of a Lieut. and 17 men killed, a Lieut. 2 midshipmen and 24 men wounded. On the part of the pirates, the account says:—"Two of the mystics were sunk and the other two disabled, and the destruction of the people on shore from the guns of the Sybille, must have been very considerable, as the Island was strewed with their bodies and muskets." The account further states, on the arrival of the frigate off the Island, "Here was discovered a complete nest of these robbers, and so well were they prepared for defence, that upwards of 200 armed men were seen behind a stone breast work, ready to repel any attack." *Balt. Chron.*

Mr. John Harbaugh, of Frederick county, in a note to the editor of the Examiner, states that on the 22d ult. his daughter was bitten on the ankle by a copper-head snake, the bite of which is considered fully as dangerous as that of a rattle snake. The mouth of a common glass bottle, filled with whiskey, was applied to the wound for three quarters of an hour, and when taken away the poison was distinctly seen passing from the wound into the bottle. A perfect cure was effected by this simple remedy.

Another new Steam Engine.—Mr. Matthew Cluff, of Norfolk, has invented a steam engine which dispenses with all complicated apparatus, even pistons and valves, and at once applies the power to the wheel, to which it gives an equable motion, and is capable of being applied to any kind of machinery. The Norfolk Beacon thus describes the machine:—"A very correct idea of it may be formed by supposing one end of a plain tube, of any dimensions required, to be inserted into a boiler, round which a fire is made, and the other end entering near the bottom, a reservoir of water heated by the steam continually passing into it through the tube. In the reservoir a wheel with buckets, similar to that of an overshot mill, revolves on a common axis, deriving its motion, (which is rapid and of a power susceptible of any augmentation desired) from the steam, which in its ascent from the bottom of the reservoir where the tube enters, continually fills the buckets and gives the wheel the necessary impetus." Mr. Cluff intends to obtain a patent, and test the value of his machine without delay. *Balt. Chron.*

STEAMBOAT BABCOCK.

The Steamboat under this name has arrived at New-York from Newport, R. I.—The engine of this boat is the invention of the person whose name she bears, and it is asserted that during the passage between the two cities, of 200 miles, only 1¾ cords of wood were consumed. The first one hundred miles were performed in 10 hours, under all the disadvantages of a vessel much too large for the engine, and not suited for use as a steamboat. The boat was built, (before the efficiency of the engine was fully established) with a sharp bottom, so that in case of her not succeeding as a steamer, she might be converted into a sea vessel. There is never more than a gill of heated water at a time, so that the danger of explosion is totally avoided. The steam is generated by water, injected alternately by the upward and downward motion of the piston, through bars or tubes placed transversely across the furnace. As soon as the steam has performed its office, of raising or lowering the piston, it is condensed, so that no water of consequence is lost.

The following is an extract of a letter written by a young man, a student at the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, in Philadelphia, to his friend in the country. It shows the importance of such an Institution; and that those who are unfortunately dumb, may, by proper instruction, partake of mental enjoyments of the highest order. *Vil. Rec.*

"It is an extraordinary fact, that Jefferson and Adams died in the same afternoon of the last Anniversary of our National existence. They have richly adorned their country by their important services; and their virtues and abilities will forever pass known and venerated through succeeding generations. The former is compared to the sun in his meridian, holding full glory, on account of his high standing in the zealous and noble defence, and indefatigable promotion of our rights; and the latter, to his decline before sunset, preserving tranquility, though decreasing in glorious splendor, because of his advanced age, and by reason of the pleasure and peace which he enjoyed in contemplating the privileges of our liberty and improvement."

There is no knowing of how important a discovery the following may be the precursor. If so large a piece of gold has been found in Vermont, it is not likely that it is an isolated specimen. It would be interesting to know if there be any recollection of Gold having been heretofore discovered in that region of our country.

From the Troy Sentinel.

Vermont Gold.—A beautiful piece of native gold, weighing nearly ten ounces, was lately found in the town of Newfane, Vermont. It was picked up by a boy near a small brook, and was studded with chrystals of quartz. We have been favored by Mr. French, of this city, with the perusal of a letter from a friend in that place, from which we extract the following particulars: "A mass of native gold, weighing nearly ten ounces, has been found in this village, upon the farm of Samuel Ingram. In its general appearance it strikingly resembles the North Carolina Gold—specific gravity 16.5—considered worth 89 cents per pennyweight. It was found in the bank of a stream, which empties into the branch opposite this village." We have seen another letter, which says that the inhabitants of the village "are about turning out on a grand search for more of the precious metal, and every witch-hazel thereabouts has been subsidized for a mineral rod." We understand that a gentleman in that neighborhood is preparing a full and scientific description of the gold, and the region in which it was found.

A land Turtle was found by a boy on the farm of George Hunter, in Newtown, Delaware county, a few days ago, marked I. H. 1761—he lived 15 years under the protection of a King's subjects and has lived to see the Jubilee of American Independence.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

LIVERPOOL, July 22.

It is with sensations of the deepest sorrow we have to reiterate our former statements relative to the distress which in an unparalleled degree pervades the manufacturing districts of this and the adjoining counties.

Accounts daily reach us of the increased misery of the working classes, occasioned by the manufacturers generally being compelled to abridge their hours of labour, and even then only to employ a portion of the manufacturing population. The extreme distress which prevails, fills with apprehension the minds of all those interested in the peace of the country. It is true we are without accounts of those alarming acts of violence which we some time ago received, but we feel convinced that the recurrence of those lamentable acts is alone prevented by the presence of a large military force.

We cannot disguise from ourselves the appalling conviction that the great mass of the industrious population engaged in manufactures, is reduced to pauperism and despair; that the employment still given is hourly decreasing; and that food will probably advance in price. With this view of our situation, we confess we are not prepared to meet the approach of winter, without feelings of a nature little allied to those by which the government at present appear to be actuated. We believe that the situation of the people in this country has been represented to government; they, therefore, must be aware that not only the manufacturing, but the commercial interests, are in a situation to require immediate and effectual relief. We venture to assert that relief must be afforded, or the distress now existing will be increased in a degree calculated to make every man in this country anxious to obtain, by any reasonable sacrifice, a return to a settled state of things, in which the enterprise of the merchant and the industry of the artizan will be encouraged and promoted, and the fortunes of the whole community will be protected from those sudden and violent changes, which frustrate the wisest plans, and render unavailing the most indefatigable industry.

From a London paper.

Dreadful effect of Anger.—Amongst the many dreadful occurrences which fall under our notice, we have to add the following lamentable case of manslaughter. What renders it more distressing to the feelings is, that the crime has been perpetrated by a father upon the person of his own son, an infant of between six and seven years of age, and the catastrophe arose from giving way to an unbounded fit of passion, excited by a cause the most trivial. The unhappy man, who now stands charged upon the Coroner's warrant for the offence, is a Mr. Ranton, a person about fifty years of age, and holding a respectable situation in society, that of steward to Thomas Bonar, Esq. of Elmstead Lodge, about two miles below Bromley, in Kent. From what few facts have come to our knowledge, it appeared that the child was in the habit of going daily to school to Bromley, but on account of the distance was in the habit of going home but once a day, at the close of the school in the evening. About ten days since, the boy, upon leaving school, loitered on his way, which occasioned him to arrive home considerably after the usual time. Upon going in doors, his father questioned him as to the cause which had kept him so long, and the child not giving a satisfactory answer, the unguarded parent ordered him into a room. On entering the room the door was fastened by the father when it appeared he took up the rail of a chair, which was lying upon the floor, and began to chastise the poor child in a most unmerciful manner; the cries of the child only served to exasperate the frenzied fit which had taken possession of the father. The boy, endeavouring to avoid the blows, stooped, when, horrible to relate, the stick lighted with the utmost violence upon the back part of his head, and in an instant he fell senseless on the ground, the blood gushing in torrents from the wound.—The unhappy man, on seeing the fatal effects which his passion had occasioned, instantly gave the alarm. The intelligence was promptly carried to the house of his master, and a messenger was despatched for surgical aid. In the course of an hour a surgeon arrived, who attempted to bleed the child, but all was of no avail, the vital spark having fled. Upon the surgeon examining the wound he found the skull fractured, which produced a concussion of the brain, and was the immediate cause of death. The medical gentleman, upon finding his skill of no use, inquired how it occurred, when a female who was present stated, that the parent of the child had been chastising him with a stirrup, the buckle of which had entered the head. At this instant the unfortunate mother rushed into the room exclaiming that her child had been murdered, and that it had been done by the rail of the chair, and not the stirrup. A further examination then took place, when a violent blow was discovered near the abdomen, which, from the discoloration, was evidently produced by a kick, but which the same female endeavored to account for by saying that the child had been bathed with strong vinegar.

Upon the day following the dreadful catastrophe, the Coroner held an inquest on the body; when after the examination of two witnesses, the unfortunate man was committed to Maidstone gaol, to take his trial at the Sessions for the offence.

The distresses in Ireland are so great, that at Kilkenny, the baker's baskets were robbed in the streets. One woman who had taken a loaf and devoured part of it, declared that neither she nor her children had tasted any thing but this before for three days excepting hay and water.

Opposition in coaches sometimes runs to great length, and the mania has reached steamboats. We understand that at the present time, the passengers in the steam packet between Cork and Bristol are supplied—with provisions gratis!!!

It is said that the improvement in steam navigation introduced by Mr. Perkins, has attracted the serious attention of the Ministers, and that the *Comet* steam vessel has been placed at his disposal for the purpose of the experiment. Mr. Perkins' plan consists in giving to steam engines the propelling power by a comparatively small portion of fuel, so small indeed, that steam navigation to the remotest part of the world would become practicable, and vessels of war might be fitted up with steam engines without inconvenience. Should the experiments made by order of the government succeed, we may expect to see the whole system of naval warfare materially altered.

Canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

A letter from Balize, Honduras, of July 6, received in Philadelphia, says:

"Schr. Columbus, is to sail to-morrow for Providence, (arrived 5th) with Col. Beneski, who has concluded a contract with the Guatamala Government, as agent to Messrs. Palmer & Co. of New York, (to be known as the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean Company,) to cut a navigable Canal from Lake Nicaragua into the South Sea.—They are bound to commence working within 18 months; the distance to be cut from the Lake to join a river which empties itself into the Pacific does not exceed 6 leagues. This great undertaking will employ 6000 men, which are chiefly to be sent to the River San Juan, from your country."

Democratic Meeting.

According to previous notice, a number of the Democratic Republican citizens, of different parts of the county of Adams, met at the house of B. Gilbert, Esq. in Gettysburg, on Monday the 28th day of August, 1826: When

GEO. KERR, was appointed Chairman, and JACOB LEFEVER, Secretary.

On motion,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the Democratic Republican citizens of the several townships, and the borough of Gettysburg, in the county of Adams, to meet at their respective places of holding township elections, on *Saturday the 9th day of September next*, and choose 2 Delegates, to meet at the Court-house in Gettysburg, on Monday the 11th of September next, at 11 o'clock, A. M. to form a county ticket, to be supported at the ensuing General election; to appoint Two conferees, to meet those from the other counties of this Congressional district, at Shippensburg, on Friday the 15th of September next, to nominate two candidates for Congress; and, also, to appoint Three conferees, to meet others from York county, at the usual place in Hanover, on Friday the 15th of September, to nominate a candidate for State Senator, in the room of Dr. M'Ilvain, resigned.

Resolved, unanimously, that the delegates, when they shall have assembled to form a Ticket to be supported by the Democratic Republicans of Adams county, be, and they are hereby requested to appoint a Standing Committee, whose duty it shall be to make such arrangements as they may deem necessary, preparatory to any approaching election.

Resolved, that these proceedings be published in all the newspapers in Gettysburg.

G. KERR, Chairman.

JACOB LEFEVER, Sec'ry.

"*Pennsylvania Canal Ac.*" was not received in time for this paper.

The Parterre.

"UTILE—DULCE."

WOMAN.

In infancy, from woman's breast,
We draw the food by nature given;
She lulls our childish pangs to rest,
And cheers us as a beam from heaven!
When woman smiles, she has the power
To heal our grief, to calm our fears;
Should sickness wound—should fortune lour,
She shares our sorrows, dries our tears!

And she can soothe the cares of age,
As rolls Time's furrowing course along;
Can cheer us with the classic page,
Or charm us with the magic song;
When stretch'd upon the bed of death,
Departed nature struggling lies;
At that dread pause—when the next breath
May waft our spirit to the skies;

When the soul views the narrow verge,
Close on the confines of the grave;
And now it longs its flight to urge—
Now wishes for an arm to save;
Who cheers that dreary scene of wo?
Who speaks of peace, and joy, and love?
Who wipes the tear-drops as they flow?
'Tis Woman, sent from Heaven above.

'Tis she receives our parting sigh,
'Tis she who hears our latest breath,
'Tis she who seals the closing eye,
And whispers peace and hope in death!
And, when the mournful scene is past,
'Tis woman weeps upon our bier;
Silent, yet long, her sorrows last,
Unseen she sheds affection's tear.

On earth she is the truest friend
That is to man in mercy given,
And when this fleeting life shall end,
She'll live for purer joys in heaven.
Oh, Woman! Woman! THOU wast made,
Like heaven's own pure and lovely light,
To cheer life's dark and desert shade,
And guide man's erring footsteps right.

From the National Journal, of Aug. 16.

AMERICAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

An examination of all the attempts hitherto made to ascertain more satisfactorily the geography and natural history of these regions, will suffice to convince every unprejudiced observer that the field for discovery remains still immense; and that the reason why more is not known in relation to these remote regions, is, because more has not been attempted.

The many interesting facts connected with the North and South, and recorded by travellers and navigators of high and unquestionable authority, are calculated rather to elicit than to satisfy curiosity.—They clearly show that science has not yet attained its acme of perfection, and that there are within the mighty bosom of the universe, unexplained phenomena which may shed light upon our systems of philosophy.

All former opinions have regard to the temperature of the climate, as increasing in tensity in approaching high latitudes; but this is found not to be the fact.

After passing a certain degree of latitude, either to the North or South, the ocean is generally found less encumbered with ice, the temperature more mild, the productions of nature more abundant, and animals more plentiful.

The currents flowing from the North are stated by some authors to be warmer than the ocean in lower latitudes, and the winds from that direction are known to be equally mild. The ice floating upon the currents is of a different specific gravity.

The sun in high latitudes becomes less bright, and the color of the ocean more dark.

On the bosom of the currents, flowing from the Arctic seas, are to be found immense quantities of floating timber, ten degrees farther north than any timber is known to grow. On the coasts of Greenland, Iceland, and Norway, this timber is lodged every season, and on the latter, seeds of a tropical kind, in so recent a state as to vegetate and grow.

Is it said they are carried by the Gulph Stream, thrown into the polar basin, and from thence brought down by the northerly currents? We answer, that from the Great Bank, the Gulph Stream turns more to the east, and loses itself in the great expanse of the Atlantic Ocean.

The current which flows south-east from Hudson's Bay and Davis' Straits, and the experiments of Captain Parry, demonstrate that such is not their origin.

Does the timber come from Labrador?—We answer that it comes with the currents, and lodges on that shore. Is Canada the nursery of this timber? We ask, why is not the oak, the ash, and other timber of that country found with it? which is not the fact. Let us trace the subject still further—to the countries of Siberia and Tartary. From the account of the Russian vessels, sent out by Imperial orders, in the year 1735, with the view of discovering a north-east passage, we find that the whole Siberia coast is lined with drift wood; that the most decayed trunks lay the farthest from the shore, evidently evincing that it was brought from some other region.

The same drift is found on the coast of Kamschatka, and the inhabitants say that it comes from countries unknown to them. It is useless to speculate upon this subject. We leave it "in medio;" and in the words of Scrantze, in his history of Greenland, only observe: "That it is evident the drift wood comes from a rich and cold country, but it is difficult to tell where the country is."

The variation and dip of the needle, the extraordinary powers of vision, independent of refraction, the difference in latitude and longitude, found by celestial observation, and that of the log line—the sun in his northern declination not appearing to Parry at his greatest altitude, until a short time after 12 o'clock, are a few of the many unexplained phenomena of high latitudes, which are difficult to be reconciled with our common received opinions of the figure of the earth at the poles.

The account and tradition of nations of high latitudes, as well from the continent of America as from Asia, joined with the migration of fish, animals and birds, various in their numbers, to and from the polar regions, speak a language that cannot be misinterpreted. They cannot hibernate; neither is it reasonable to suppose that that mysterious, yet unerring guide, instinct, directs them to regions of perpetual snow. To explore their winter retreat, is within the enterprize of man.

In the case of all the expeditions that have yet been undertaken, the causes which led to their return without the fruition of their hopes, were generally unconnected with insuperable obstacles, or rather were attributable to the defect in the instruction of officers, the fear of meeting the necessary provisions, the superstition and mutiny of crews, or the choice of an improper season to make the exploration.

Thus, for instance, when Scoresby advanced to 81 deg. north, having penetrated the field of ice, he turned back with an open sea before him, having nothing in view but the capture of whales, and being unwilling to risk a vessel which he had no instruction to employ in making discoveries.

The papers of the Hon. Barrington and Colonel Beaufoy, members of the Royal Society of London, contain many instances wherein navigators have reached high northern latitudes.

As far back as the year 1751, Captain McCallam, an able sea officer, engaged in the Greenland fisheries, after the spring labours were past, determined to extend his researches toward the Pole, and accordingly pushed his discoveries to 83 deg. 30, where the sea was not only open to the north, but he had not seen a speck of ice for the last three degrees.

While thus advancing in those high latitudes, the mate became alarmed at the unsteadiness of the needle, and entered his protest against proceeding any farther. The Captain knowing that, if any accident should occur, he would be severely censured by his employers, consented, though with reluctance, to return.

We have it on the authority of Dr. Campbell, the able continuator reviser of Harrison's Collections & Voyages, that a certain Dr. Dallie, while young, was on board a Dutch vessel, employed in the fisheries, and that between the Spring and Fall labors they advanced still further North than Capt. McCallam, where, agreeably to their accounts, the Sea was not only less encumbered with ice, but rolling like the Bay of Biscay. They determined their latitude from time to time by both Davis and Hadley's Quadrats. Dr. Dallie now urged the Captain to advance still further, who answered, that he had already gone too far, and that he feared being censured by his employers in Holland, whose instructions, the insurance of the vessel, and Custom-House oath, confined him to the Greenland seas.

Mr. Stephens, from the Northern parts of Spitzbergen, was driven by a southerly wind to 84 deg. 30 min. and found the sea entirely open and free from ice.

Captains Reed, Phillips, Hutton, Wheatly, Robinson, Clark, Glunrey, Boid, Ware, and five vessels under the command of Hans Derick in the German employ, all have been beyond 80 degrees North, and agree in this important fact—that beyond 80 deg. 30, or 81 deg. the Ocean, from some cause or other, perhaps not yet well understood, is found less encumbered with ice.

Franklin, in the year 1819, and we may now add in the year 1823, when North of Baffin's Bay, informs us, in his journal, that all the ice he met with would not have impeded the progress of a long boat.

To the South, our information is limited to fewer facts; little has been discovered in that hemisphere since the days of Cook, who, it is true, was not able to advance beyond 71 deg.; but this attempt was not made in the most favorable season of the year.

The intrepid Weddell has lately shown that the icy circle to the South, as well as to the North, may be passed. To use his own words: "In latitude 74 deg. 25, South, not a speck of ice to be seen—the mildness of every thing around us is such that our situation might be envied, were it not for the well known fact, that we had to penetrate immense fields of ice again in returning to the equator." What might not be expected from an experienced crew of Nantucket seamen with such an open Ocean before them?

The results of the recent attempts of Ross, Parry, and Franklin, are well known, and the reasons of the suspensions of their efforts were altogether unconnected with the necessary difficulties of their situations.

They effect enough, however, to show, that with the advantages of the experience acquired through their enterprises, a much more efficient attempt might now be made.

Hitherto, the objects proposed, by all these polar voyages, have either been for the improvement of the whaling business, or for the discovery of a North West passage. In consequence whereof, one set of explorers have been led at once to the borders of the field ice, for the purpose of seeking the objects of their trade; while others, engaged in seeking for a passage, have naturally endeavored to find it by scrutinizing the bays and Coasts on the Northern parts of the Continent. Thus both have been unavoidably withheld from advancing beyond a certain degree, by the necessary formation of ice which extends from the shore, for many leagues in the main ocean.

It is impossible, therefore, that voyages thus conducted should be more successful than the preceding.

But, instead of pursuing this course, the exploring vessels, setting out in the most favorable season of the year, and keeping as far as possible in the mid ocean, might advance much farther to the North or South, without the impediments experienced while creeping around the indentations of the Coast or making way among numerous Islands, each of which serves as a point of retardation, by affording the means of support and extension to the earliest ice which forms.

Suppose that this cause is pursued, and before the expiration of the summer season the farthest point is attained, the prospect of passing the winter in safety there, is equally great, if not greater, than it would be near to the shore, of any part of these regions; and after one winter passed in such situation, the succeeding operative period might, it is believed, be employed to much greater advantage, than it could possibly be, according to any of the attempts hitherto made.

The first and most interesting question to be determined, is, whether the figure of the earth at the poles, is that of an oblate spheroid, as has been so long entertained, or whether it may not be some other shape which may more satisfactorily account for many circumstances and phenomena, now apparently inexplicable.

The settlement of this question is connected immediately with a world of important and useful investigation, which would exercise a pervading influence in every department of human science and industry.

Secondary to this great object, such an expedition could scarcely fail to lead to the most satisfactory and useful observations on natural history, especially concerning the winter retreats of those sea animals, which are peculiarly interesting, as sources of commercial prosperity. The hunting of the whale and seal, heretofore carried on with so much vigor, has produced the natural necessary consequence of rendering those animals more timid and fewer in number by their destruction without reference to season.

This makes it extremely desirable that new situations should be explored where these animals may be found in greater abundance, and procured with less uncertainty and risk. The result of the voyages heretofore, show satisfactorily, that the objects of value to this branch of commercial enterprise are to be found with great facility in the remote polar regions.

Parry informs us, that the number of whales in high latitudes was astonishing, that not less than fifty were seen in the course of one watch; in other places they were seen sporting in shoals like porpoises.

We may also state, that human beings have been found as far north or south as explorations have yet been made.

The discovery of islands of great size, or even a continent to the south, is not too much to be hoped for, if we may be allowed to draw any inference from the obvious indications afforded by analogy, the observations of experienced navigators, or the natural signs presented by currents, &c. &c. already known to exist in those regions. The great probability that such discoveries may be made, is coupled with a certainty, that the profit to be derived from them in a commercial point of view, especially in animals, furs, oil, &c. may hereafter be pursued to the great advantage of our common country. We venture the assertion, that the land of the sea otter will be found to the south.

But, abstract from all theoretical ideas, the following conclusions may be deduced by every impartial observer of the facts hitherto collected on this subject:

1st. The expeditions, hitherto fitted out, have not returned because it was impracticable to proceed farther.

2d. Those who have gone farthest, have in more than one instance put back with an open sea before them.

3d. The experience acquired by preceding attempts, would, at present, enable our expedition to go to sea, prepared to avoid most of the obstacles heretofore experienced.

4th. As far as explorers have yet gone, north or south, abundance of human inhabitants, land and marine animals, have been DISCOVERED.

5th. All these circumstances combined justify us in believing that the renewal of this inquiry at this time, and by the citizens of this country, with a view to determine the figure of the earth, collect interesting facts in natural history, open new channels of commercial enterprize, &c. &c. would be followed by the most important results, tending to the immediate honor and advantage of our common country, and the world at large.

A description of the vessels, number of men, scientific corps, instruments, &c. &c. belongs rather to the appendix of a journal, than to a paper of this kind. We have already stated on another occasion, that the enterprise has not been prematurely undertaken, and that we have received the counsel, advice, and assurance of a friendly co-operation of numerous men of science and of our country.

As the object of the expedition is strictly national, we entertain the expectation that there are some daring spirits in our Army and Navy, who are tired of "inglorious ease," and who would, with leave of absence, enter with delight upon this new path to fame.

While we feel a diffidence in our abilities to conduct the part that may be allotted to us, we are inspired with the utmost confidence in the skill, enterprise and perseverance of our seamen; with them we hope to bear our national colors to the unexplored regions of the South, unless, indeed, it should be found that there is a limit beyond which human enterprize cannot extend—a line that must forever bark the 'ultima Thula' of human knowledge.

J. N. REYNOLDS.

Washington City, Aug. 15, 1826.

Vineyards.—The York Recorder publishes the following interesting information respecting the present condition of the Vineyards in that county. By seeing what has been done in the cultivation of the vine in that section of country, we hope that our readers nearer home may be induced to turn their attention to the same subject:—

The number of Vineyards in York County is twenty-seven, of which 12 are of five acres extent, or more, and in all there are more than one hundred acres planted. Mr. Thomas Eichelberger, the first vigneron, has himself 12 acres. His first planting was four acres, from which, in the third year of its growth, he made three barrels of wine; fourth year thirteen barrels; 5th year thirty barrels; 6th and 7th years, in consequence of frost and drought, the product was reduced to twenty one barrels in each year. It must be remembered that in every year about sixty dollars worth of grapes have been sold. From present appearances these four acres may at this year's vintage produce sixty barrels of wine.

Cuttings have been sold at thirty dollars per thousand, and planted in squares of four feet. But experience has shown that this is too close to admit the free access of sun and air; and is besides an useless expenditure of cuttings, requiring about twenty seven hundred to the acre, and perhaps not producing more grapes than one fourth the number planted in rows ten feet apart and the vines six feet asunder in the rows. Another advantage attends the wide planting—the vines may be worked with the plough and cultivator; whereas, at four feet apart each way, they must be worked altogether with the hoe.

The cost of setting out an acre of vines in trenches, and in squares of four feet, independent of cuttings, as has been customary here, is estimated at ten dollars.

A southeastern exposure, with the rows running in the direction of a slope, & if very steep, crossed occasionally with a furrow to prevent the soil from being washed off, is best; as well on account of protecting the vines from the bleak north west wind, which blows so many months in the year, as also to expose the rows through their whole extent to the sun as early in the morning as possible, so that the moisture may be dried off and mildew prevented.

Vineyards in this country, have not been planted in a great variety of soils. Perhaps all have been planted either in a limestone, or in a clay slate. This last if sufficiently fertilized, is considered better than limestone land.

Lime has not been used about the vines, but they have been dressed, every third year, with stable manure.

The wine is now selling at $1 per gallon.

It is worthy of remark, that, by the success which has attended the efforts of Major *Denham*, and his enterprising fellow travellers, to penetrate the interior of Africa, they have fully ascertained the truth of the theory advanced and so ingeniously supported by the enlightened Spaniard who travelled in Africa and Arabia some years ago, under the auspices of Napoleon, and under the feigned name of *Ali Bey*, in the character of a Turk: namely, that there must exist an immense Lake or sea, in the central regions of Africa. The English travellers, above mentioned, reached and examined an interior lake, 2000 miles long and 150 broad, called Lake Tchad. If Major Denham's account be correct, this is one of the most remarkable lakes in the world. It is thus described:

"It is situate in 16 deg. of E. longitude, and 13½ of N. latitude, is about two thousand miles long from E. to W. by one hundred and fifty broad, and occupies nearly the precise position of Wangura, as laid down in Arrowsmith's Map, in which swamp the Joliba or Niger is supposed to terminate. It covers a surface about as large as the two American Lakes, Erie and Ontario, both together. The Tchad receives a river called the Yeou, about fifty yards broad in the dry season, which has its source about four hundred miles distant in the S. W. and which was well ascertained not to be the Niger.

Another river, six times as large, with a delta of fifty miles broad at its embouchure, flows into the Lake from the S. and is called the Shary, which may be, but most probably is not, the river alluded to. What is rather a puzzling fact in physical geography, this Lake, though it has no afflux, is fresh, yet saline incrustations are found in same parts of the country around, & small salt pools are found close to its Northern margin.—The Lake Tchad has a number of islands on its Eastern side, which are inhabited by the Bidomahs, a race of piratical savages, who come in a fleet of a hundred boats, and rob or carry into slavery the people living near its banks. The Lake swells greatly when the periodical rains fall, and vast numbers of lions, antelopes, and hyenas, driven from their retreats on its bank, by the waters, destroy the small crops of the villagers, and carry off the cattle or the women who are sent to watch the fields. Sometimes these animals attack the villages."

Needle Making.—I will attempt to give you some idea of needle making. The wire is first cut into suitable lengths for two needles. Each end is sharpened by taking fifty or a hundred between the first fingers and rolling the points on a revolving stone. The needle is then placed on a die, exactly in the centre, and one blow makes two eyes, and at the same time, cuts the wire nearly in two, between the eyes. This was done with so much rapidity that I asked how many times the die fell to make the eyes, not perceiving that the boy took up a new one at every blow. Two needles are then parted, and you have two in an unfinished state. Tempering them is then the next progress. The needles while heated red hot, are thrown into cold water, and afterwards are brought to the spring temper, by being rolled in plates of hot iron. Each is then filled at the eye; and, last of all, receives the polish in the same way as it is pointed, only on a finer stone. In the last room I visited were 15 or 20 young girls, from ten to fourteen years of age, busy in counting them out, putting them into papers, and labelling them. The principal part of the work is done by boys, who, from their appearances, must be poorly paid.

London paper.

Paper.—The most ancient specimen of paper, such as we now use, made of linen rags, is a charter, seven inches long, and three inches broad, preserved in the emperor's library at Vienna, which was written in the year 1242, as the date is calculated by Mr. Schwandnel, an Austrian nobleman, and principal keeper of the imperial library, who has written an essay on this curious relique, which is half a century older than any other specimen that has been discovered.

When dunces calls us fools, without proving us to be so, our best resort is to prove them to be fools, without condescending to call them so.

Lacon.

How few of the Christian denominations are there who do not believe or preach that they alone are "the heirs of the covenant!" The erudite Dr. Parr used to say—"He deprecated those prejudices and passions which exasperated individuals and religious communities upon controverted points of doctrines not always placed within the grasp of the strongest intellect, nor always profitable unto salvation."—"We should consider ourselves," he added, "not merely as members of this church or that sect, nor even as citizens of the world, but as parts of the Universe; not merely as heirs of God, but as co-heirs with millions of creatures endowed with the same faculties which we have, and destined to the same faculties which we have, and destined to the same beneficent ends."

WHIMSICAL CONTRIBUTION.

A benevolent Quaker was lately applied to by a respectable gentleman, one of the Society of Wesleyans, for the purpose of soliciting a subscription towards enabling them to complete a new chapel built upon the site of an old one, but which could not be finished for want of funds; at length, breaking silence, with a deep groan, he began thus: "I tell thee what, friend, my purse is always open to the distressed; but, friend, my religion, thou knowest, differs from that of thine; we do not think thee right, and it is against one religion to help others to *build up chapels*; therefore, friend, thou seest I cannot assist thee." The Methodist was about departing, and was nearly out of the room, when the Quaker called him back: "Hark'ee, friend, how much hast thou laid out?" The Methodist replied, "Sixteen hundred pounds," "And how much more dost thou want to complete it?" "About fourteen hundred more." "Well, friend," said the Quaker, here's one hundred pounds to defray the expense of *pulling down the old chapel.*"

According to a statement in the *Morgenblatt*, the celebrated Chinese wall was erected 212 years before the birth of Christ, against the Mongolese. It is 714 Dutch miles long, 14 feet thick, and 26 feet high; so that with the same materials a wall one foot in thickness and 23 in height, might be carried twice around the whole world.

$2 REWARD.

STRAYED away from the farm of the subscriber, in Liberty township, during the harvest,

Two Heifers,

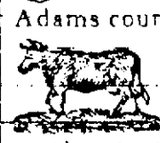
one a brindle, 3 years old, with a long strait, yellow horn; the other is a black and white, two years old, with very short horns. Whoever has taken up said cattle, and shall give information to the subscriber, shall receive the above reward—and all reasonable charges paid.

John Bower.

Aug. 29. 3t

Stray Heifer.

CAME to the plantation of the subscriber, in Cumberland township, Adams county, about the middle of June last, a



Red & White Heifer,

about two years old—no marks perceivable. The owner is desired to come, prove property, pay charges and take her away.

Robert M'Creary.

Aug. 22. 3t